future imperfect
MARVEL
LAND
SECRET WARS
DAVID
LAND
LEISTEN
WOODARD
005

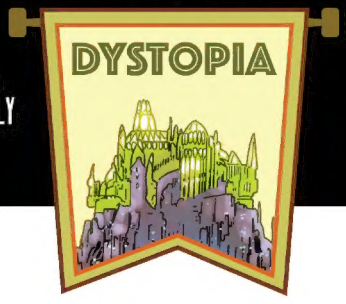
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD!**

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH DOMAIN RULED BY POWERFUL BARONS, BUT NONE MORE TIGHTLY CONDUCTED THAN...

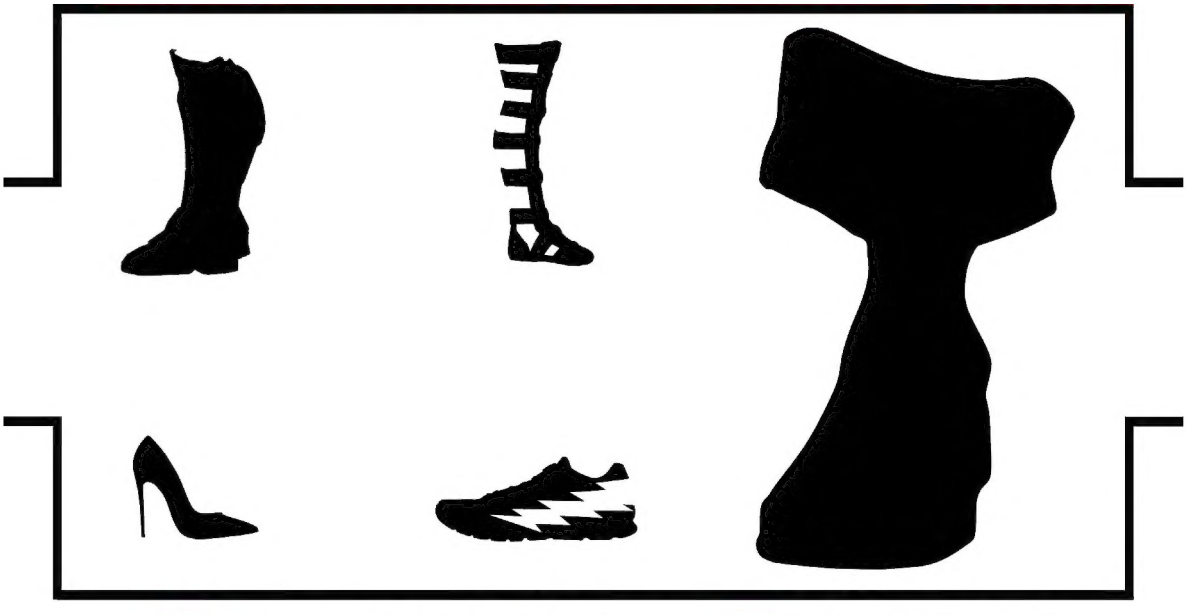



# SECRET WARS

OUR EXALTED BARON, THE MAESTRO, WELCOMES YOU TO HIS TROPHY ROOM OF CONQUERED OPPONENTS.

## EXHIBITING THIS SEASON: HALL OF FOOTWEAR

*PLEASE REMAIN QUIET AND RESPECTFUL!



- WAR MACHINE REPULSOR BOOT
- HERCULES SANDAL
- QUICKSILVER CROSS-TRAINERS
- EMMA FROST HIGH HEEL
- BLACK GOLIATH BOOT

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# future imperfect

In Dystopia, the heroes of old are mere legends and the inhabitants of the domain live under the strict rule of their lord and master, Baron MAESTRO… but not for long. A small group of rebels seek to overthrow his authority.

Maestro captured rebel leader Major Thaddeus Ross and held him prisoner. When the remaining rebels, led by mutant Ruby Summers and aided by Layla Miller, infiltrated Maestro's palace to break Ross out, they found him allied with the Baron against their true overlord, Doom!

To have any hope against Doom, the two factions formed a shaky union and ventured to a domain of myth and legend, Norseheim, seeking the weapon known as 'the Destroyer.' But ***who*** they uncovered was far more shocking than a mere weapon…


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**LAND & WOODARD** COVER

GRANDPA?!
Hey, little girl. Been a while.
JONES. YOU'RE THE "ANCIENT ONE" GUARDING THE DESTROYER?
Got a problem with the name? "Ancient One" just seemed kinda better than, y'know, "Rick." "Rick the Guardian." Doesn't really fly.
SO WHAT WILL IT BE, JONES? DO YOU PLAN TO SPRING SOME TRAP ON ME?
OR PERHAPS YOU WILL ENDEAVOR TO APPEAL TO THE MAN YOU ONCE KNEW THAT YOU STILL BELIEVE DWELLS WITHIN ME.
OR MAYBE YOU'LL--
Jeez, Bruce, you just never shut up.
You want the Destroyer? C'mon. I'll show you where it is.

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GIVE HIM THE DESTROYER, GRAMPS?
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
YES?
Janis...
I'm over a hundred years old. I can't hear you when you whisper.
I can barely hear you when you speak normally.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SUPER HERO TOO, JONES. THE A-BOMB...
I got over it. Guys like me got no business being super-guys. It messes with your mind.
Trust me on that.
There y'go. All yours.
THAT'S IT?
That's it.
WHAT'S THE TRICK? THE CHALLENGE?
No trick. No challenge. Just take it.
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS.

Boy, you really can't just handle something when it's handed to you, can you, Bruce?
There's no trick, it's just what I'm telling you. The Destroyer is right there.
All you have to do is touch it and it will obey you.
OR TRY TO DESTROY ME.
Well, it *is* called the Destroyer, so that's an issue, I guess.

NO. IT CAN'T BE THAT SIMPLE. IT CAN'T.
BANNER! LET HIM GO!
NOT UNTIL HE ADMITS THAT IT CANNOT BE THIS SIMPLE!
Simple?
This is anything but simple, Bruce. See... Doom is on his way here. I summoned him.
This is his place of power. It's wish central. All wishing wells, everywhere, are connected to this place.
And he knows you're trespassing. You've got only minutes 'til he gets here.
And then he'll kill you. So... not so much with the simple.
Up to you, man. I really don't give a damn.
IF THIS IS A TRAP, JONES, REST ASSURED, I WILL SURVIVE IT. BUT YOU WON'T.
THAT I PROMISE YOU.
Sorry, what? Wasn't listening.
IDIOT.

ALL RIGHT. NOW WHAT DO I DO?
You? You do nothing. Now it's all the Destroyer.
But here's the question: Are you really sure you want to do this?
Think about it, Bruce, 'cause there's no going back...
STOP CALLING ME "*BRUCE.*" BRUCE BANNER IS LONG GONE.
I'M THE MAESTRO! ***THE MAESTRO!***
*EH?*
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I'll tell ya what's happening.
It's the beginning of the end. That's what.
IT'S...IT'S ***TALKING*** TO ME! I CAN HEAR IT!
HOW IS THIS ***HAPPENING?***
It's what was meant to happen, buddy.

WHO *DARES?!*
WHO DARES ENTER THE DOMAIN OF THEIR LORD UNINVITED...
...AND SEEK TO STEAL THAT WHICH IS MINE?

YOU ARE FROM DYSTOPIA, YES?
YOU, ORANGE ONE. SPEAK.
YES, GREATNESS.
AND DID YOU LEAD THIS EXPEDITION?
Their leader is out there.
Might wanna get on that.
MAESTRO! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!
GET AWAY FROM THAT IMMEDIATELY! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT--
NO! YOU HAVE NO IDEA!
BUT WE'LL FIND OUT TOGETHER!
AND IT WILL BE INCREDIBLE!
Oh...no...

YES!

I WARN YOU, MAESTRO. DO NOT ENDEAVOR TO DO WHAT YOU ARE THINKING OF DOING...
YOU ARE WARNING ME?
YOU DON'T GET TO WARN ANYONE, EVER AGAIN!
I...I THINK WE SHOULD GO. NOW.
YEAH, I'M WITH YOU ON THAT.
I wanted to stay and watch!
YOU CAN SCAN THE REPLAY!
VERY WELL, MAESTRO. IF THIS IS WHAT YOU INSIST ON DOING...

SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!
IS THAT IT?
IS THAT TRULY ALL THE POWER THAT THE GREAT DOOM HAS TO MUSTER?
HOW IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU POSITIONED YOURSELF AS OUR LEADER IF THAT IS THE SUM OF YOUR OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS, DOOM!
FOR AGES I'VE BOWED TO YOU! I'VE SERVED YOUR WHIMS AND DONE WHATEVER YOU'VE INSTRUCTED ME TO DO!
AND FOR ALL THAT TIME, I'VE DREAMT OF THIS MOMENT!
THE MOMENT WHEN THE GREAT DOOM FALLS, AND THE MAESTRO RISES TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRETY OF THE WORLD!
AND IT WAS TRULY WORTH WAITING FOR!

UNHAND ME! AT ONCE!
AT ONCE, I SAID!
YOU SEEM TO BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU STILL GET TO DELIVER ORDERS!
GO ON! HIT ME!
SHOW ME YOUR POWER!
KLAK
IS THAT THE BEST YOU HAVE?
I'M SERIOUS. YOU'RE LETTING ME DOWN HERE.

DONE YET?
BECAUSE I'M JUST GETTING STARTED!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE I NEEDED THE POWER OF THE DESTROYER.
IT'S A FUN ADVANTAGE TO HAVE, GRANTED. BUT YOU'VE HIT ME WITH NOTHING I COULDN'T HAVE HANDLED BY MYSELF.
REALLY.
LET US SEE HOW YOU HANDLE A DISINTEGRATION BLAST!

UNHHH...
NO... NO...
A LITTLE HIGHER. JUST UNDER THE SHOULDER BLADE.
THAAAAAT'S IT.
THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE! HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

I'LL SAY THIS, THOUGH...THAT'S A RATHER POWERFUL DISINTEGRATION BEAM YOU HAVE.
THE THING IS...
I HAVE ONE AS WELL.
LET'S SEE HOW WELL *YOU* HOLD UP!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! YOU...YOU CAN'T--
I THINK YOU'LL FIND I CAN.
MAESTRO... *LISTEN* TO ME...
I SEE NOW THE *STRENGTH* THAT YOU POSSESS. YOUR CLEVERNESS, YOUR *RESOURCEFULNESS*...
IF WE JOIN OUR POWERS... NOTHING CAN POSSIBLY...
SERIOUSLY? YOU THINK NOW, AT THE MOMENT OF YOUR DEFEAT...
YOU CAN STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH ME?
VERY WELL. I OFFER YOU A COUNTER:
YOU DIE. AND I RULE.
*HOW IS THAT FOR A DEAL?!*

EEEE-YARRRHRHHHHH!!

I DID IT.
I DID IT!
I AM THE NEW RULER OF THE WORLD.
I AM THE NEW GOD!
EVERYONE...
BOW DOWN TO ME!

UH... GRAMPS...
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?
He won.
EXCUSE ME?
YES! BOW DOWN TO ME! THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE!
I told him going in, this is a wishing well.
It grants wishes.
He wished to defeat Doom.
It gave him that wish.
DO NOT WORRY. I SHALL BE A JUST GOD. A BENEFICENT GOD.
AND ALL WHO OBEY ME WILL LIVE.
AND...HOW LONG WILL HE STAY HERE?
Until he dies.

Go home now.
AND YOU'RE COMING WITH US, GRAMPS...?
Nope. This is where Doom assigned me. This is where I have to stay.
Me and him. Until the end of time.
THAT SUCKS.
Eh. There's worse ways to live.
I AM THE MAESTRO! KING OF KINGS!
LOOK ON MY WORKS, YE MIGHTY...
...AND DESPAIR!
end.